

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DLOS-06 SS-15 SAL-01 PRS-01 NSC-05

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8509

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FROM US LOSDEL

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR LEARSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE LOS CONFERENCE
TO THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 192659

1. MESSAGE DELIVERED TO AMERASINGHE PER YOUR REQUEST ON
AUGUST 4. THE FOLLOWING IS A RESPONSE TO THAT MESSAGE FROM
AMERASINGHE TO YOU.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. SECRETARY,

AMBASSADOR LEARSON HAS TRANSMITTED TO ME YOUR MESSAGE OF
4 AUGUST 1976 ON THE OCCASION OF THE RESUMPTION OF THE
LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK.
I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN YOUR
MESSAGE. I HAVE LONG BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED LEST DELAY IN
THE ATTAINMENT OF AGREEMENT ON A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TREATY
WOULD RESULT IN DOMESTIC PRESSURE BEING EXERTED ON THE
GOVERNMENTS OF MANY NATIONS TO RESORT TO UNILATERAL ACTION
WHICH COULD PROVE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO THE CONCLUSION
OF A TREATY SUCH AS WE ALL DEVOUTLY DESIRE TO CONCLUDE.

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I SHARE WITH YOU THEREFORE THE CONVICTION THAT THE

SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH HAS JUST STARTED SHOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, AT LEAST IN THE SENSE THAT WE SHOULD ACHIEVE A SUFFICIENT DEGREE OF AGREEMENT TO ENABLE US TO BRING OUR WORK TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION WITH ANOTHER SESSION SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR.

I HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED THE FULLEST COOPERATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION, FIRST OF ALL TO THE SEA-BED COMMITTEE AND THEN TO THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND I AM GREATLY HEARTENED BY YOUR ASSURANCES NOT ONLY OF THE PERSONAL ATTENTION WHICH YOU WILL DEVOTE TO THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO OF THE CONTINUING COOPERATION OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION.

FOR MY PART I SHALL SPARE NO PAINS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY TOWARDS ACHIEVING A RESULT WHICH WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY AND JUSTICE AND BE A LASTING MONUMENT TO THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL MANKIND.

I REGRET VERY MUCH THAT I WILL NOT BE HERE WHEN YOU ATTEND THE CONFERENCE DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 9, BUT I TRUST THAT ON A LATER VISIT I SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING YOU.

WITH MY BEST WISHES,
YOURS SINCERELY,

H.S. AMERASINGHE
PRESIDENT

END TEXT
BENNETT

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